STD/ISD/Internet/Fax/e-mail facilities in UP

2221. PROF. M.M AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of STD/ISD/Internet/Fax/E-mail etc. facilities provided or proposed to be provided in various Gram Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh during the year 2002-03;

(b) the Gram Panchayats of the State where the above facilities are not available and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Out of 64093 Gram Panchayats in Uttar Pradesh State 14481 Gram Panchayats are having STD facility. The STD/ISD/FAX are optional facilities and are made available on demand. 722 out of 806 block Headquarters are having Internet/E-mail connectivity in U.P. State and are being proivded on demand.

(b) and (c) 49612 Gram Panchayats in UP State at present are without STD/ISD/FAX facilities. The STD/ISD/FAX facilities are optional facilities and are available on demand. These facilities can be provided as and when demanded in all the Gram Panchayats except 30 Gram Panchayats where the two exchanges are without reliable media. These exchanges will be provided with reliable media in the current financial year. Internet/E-mail facilities are being extended at Block Headquarters through Internet Dhabas set up through franchises. BSNL is offering Internet access for the Internet Dhabas in every Rural Block Headquarters.

Pathetic condition of Rural Communication set up

2222. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pathetic condition of communication set up in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the measures taken by Government to extend communication wing in all the rural areas?